
Introduced by Senator Alquist
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Audra Strickland)

February 24, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to Respiratory Syncytial Virus Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 18, as introduced, Alquist. Respiratory Syncytial Virus Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of March of each year as Respiratory Syncytial Virus Awareness Month in the State of California. This measure would also encourage public officials and the citizens of California to observe the month with appropriate activities and educational outreach to parents and the medical community, as well as programs to raise awareness about the causes of, symptoms of, and ways of preventing Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The number of babies born premature, at less than
2 37 weeks of gestational age, continues to grow in the United States,
3 with an increase of 20 percent since 1990 and an increase of 9
4 percent since 2000; and
5 WHEREAS, In June 2005, 12.7 percent of all births were
6 premature, at less than 37 weeks gestational age. This amounts to
7 more than 525,000 infants; and
8 WHEREAS, According to the March of Dimes, in 2004,
9 California ranked in the top 10 states for preterm births (less than
10 37 completed weeks of gestational age) and very preterm births
11 (less than 32 completed weeks of gestational age). In 2005, 548,882

1 children were born in California and approximately 10 percent, or
2 56,363 children, were born premature; and

3 WHEREAS, The increase in premature birth rates in recent
4 years is primarily associated with a rise in late preterm births (34
5 to 36 weeks of gestational age), which has increased 25 percent
6 since 1990 and accounts for 70 percent of all preterm births.
7 Although multiple births have contributed to this rise, substantial
8 increases in preterm birth rates, and especially late preterm birth
9 rates, have occurred because of singleton birth rates since 1990;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Several studies have found that late preterm infants
12 have greater morbidity and mortality than full-term infants. Late
13 preterm infants have a mortality rate that is three times greater
14 than full-term infants, with the highest mortality risk occurring
15 during the neonatal period; and

16 WHEREAS, Late preterm infants have higher costs in every
17 type of medical service category compared to full-term infants,
18 including inpatient hospitalizations, well baby physician office
19 visits, outpatient hospital services, home health care services, and
20 prescription drug use; and

21 WHEREAS, The five leading causes of rehospitalization for all
22 infants includes Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) bronchiolitis,
23 bronchiolitis (cause unspecified), pneumonia (cause unspecified),
24 jaundice, and dehydration. Among these causes, RSV is the most
25 common cause of viral death in children under five years of age
26 and the leading cause of hospitalization in infants less than one
27 year of age; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
30 March of each year as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
31 Awareness Month in the State of California. The Legislature
32 encourages public officials and the citizens of California to observe
33 the month with appropriate activities and educational outreach to
34 parents and the medical community, as well as programs to raise
35 awareness about the causes of, symptoms of, and ways of
36 preventing RSV; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
38 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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